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SECRET
SECURITY INFORMATION

REPORT [redacted]

25X1

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

DATE DISTR. 30 Sep 53

SUBJECT Signal Training Center at Nove Mesto nad Vahom

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. 25X1

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

[redacted]

1. The Army Signal Training Center (Spojovaci uciliste) at Nove Mesto nad Vahom (N 48-45, E 17-50) offered the following courses: 25X1

   a. A two-year course for graduates of Officer Preparatory School (Skola dustojnickeho dorostu - SDD). The first year of this course consisted solely of basic military training. Upon completion of the first year, the students entered the OCS course.

   b. An 11-month OCS course for regular Army NCO's and two-year NCO's who had completed their two years of compulsory military duty. The students in this course trained with the SDD graduates. They were organized into seven companies of 125 men each. The first six companies were composed of NCO's in the OCS, while the seventh company was composed entirely of SDD graduates. Upon completion of this training, the students were commissioned lieutenants in the signal corps.

   c. A six-month refresher course for officers in the signal corps who were attached to tank, engineer, or infantry units.

2. The teaching staff consisted of about 100 university professors who had been recalled to active service as lieutenants, captains, and majors. No NCO's taught at this school. There were no Soviet officers directly in charge of the school, but I believe that it was supervised by Soviet personnel, and [redacted] Soviet colonel who was permanently stationed there.

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25X1

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

SECRET

SECURITY INFORMATION

25X1

3. All the members of the administrative staff, with the exception of the one Soviet, were Czechs. [redacted] The administrative positions were as follows:

a. Commanding officer of the school, a lieutenant colonel [redacted]

b. Chief of staff and deputy chief of staff. These two men performed the functions equivalent to a headquarters' commandant or commander of service troops in the US Army. All personnel working in the various administrative sections and staffs, including those used in operating the school's telephone switchboard and radio net, were subordinate to these two men. In general, they oversaw the operation of all the staff sections and were responsible directly to the commanding officer of the school.

c. Political indoctrination officer. Was in charge of all political training at the signal school and was assisted by a number of political instructors at company level. This officer, whose name was POSPISIL, carried much weight at the school.

d. Chief of the communications instruction staff. (His title in Czech was nacelnik spojeni.) He was more or less the dean of all teachers who taught special, technical subjects in the field of communications. [redacted]

e. Chief of the military instructions staff. He was in charge of those instructors who taught strictly military subjects, such as close order drill, military discipline, etc. He was also commander of all the troops, and all company commanders were responsible to him. He in turn was responsible to the commanding officer. [redacted] a Major KLIMKO filled this post [redacted]

f. Supply officer. He was in charge of clothing issuance for the men and procured food rations and other quartermaster materials needed by the school. Each company had its own individual supply room. [redacted]

g. Personnel officer. He was responsible for the students' personnel records and files. The finance section (payroll) was under the personnel officer. The personnel officer and his assistants were also responsible for operating the school's central telephone switchboard, radio room, and the teletype room, all in the same building with the personnel division /building No. 1 on the sketch/. The telephone switchboard was manufactured by Tesla and was known as the "120", because it had 120 drops. Long distance calls were placed through this board [redacted] Three EM operated the switchboard. The radio was an old German 100 watt station, and [redacted] may have been a FUG station [redacted] the school maintained radio contact with Prague [redacted] (It is not impossible that the school had direct radio contact with the Ministry of National Defense in Prague.) The school also maintained radio contact with other signal schools in Brno, Olomouc, and Turciansky Svaty Martin /N 49-04, E 18-56/. Two men were on duty in the radio room at all times. There were three old German Siemens teletype machines of the ST 35 and ST 38 types. [redacted] In addition, the school's loudspeaker system was operated from this same building, the system being the same as that used in most factories throughout Czechoslovakia. The system was hooked up to loudspeakers in every barrack and building.

25X1

25X1

4. [redacted] the school could accommodate about 1,200 men. There were 900 in training [redacted] The men were billeted in four barracks in the immediate vicinity of the school (Sketch). The barracks were three-story brick structures, about 10 x 50 m. in size. The barracks were partitioned off into rooms for platoons; each floor of the barracks was occupied by one company, including the office of the company commander, first sergeant, company clerk, and the supply room. The quarters were considered to be fairly good. 25X1 25X1

5. The students at the signal school were selected from communications platoons and sections in both Army and Border Guard units throughout Czechoslovakia. (No foreign students were at the school.) Unit commanders received orders from the Ministry of National Defense which were passed on to lower echelon commanders to select men for the signal school on the basis of past aptitude, general qualifications for becoming an officer, and desire for communications work.

[redacted]

6. The courses at the school were prescribed, and there were no subjects in which one could specialize. Subjects taught in the OCS course from 25 October 1951 to 15 September 1952 were as follows: 25X1

Subject	Hours
Political Training	264
Signal Communication	264
General Tactics	132
International Morse Code	528
Telephone Communications	176
Topography	24
Russian Language	88
Czech Language	8
Fundamentals of Electricity	24
Radio Theory	264
Weapon Familiarization	8
Mathematics	22
Codes and Ciphers	10
Field Communications	12

25X1

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Subject	Hours
Physical Training	264
How to Fire Weapons	88
Disciplinary Regulations	44
Regulations for Interior Guard Service	44
Regulations Governing Garrison Service	44
Practical Training in Radio Station Traffic	220
Operation of a Radio Net	10
Drill	264
Engineer Training	18
Combination of Military and Political Training, Training Films, and Lectures	14

About 80% of the training was theory, covered in lectures. The remaining 15% consisted of practical field training. During the summer of 1952, one month was spent in field training in a "summer training camp" (letni vycvikovy tabor - lvt). This month was spent in open fields about six kilometers south of Nove Mesto nad Vahom, and the men slept under tents during this period. The training involved actually operating the radio sets (transmitters, receivers, etc.) that we had been lectured about in classrooms. 25X1

7. [redacted] The first exam was oral, 25X1 the second oral, the third oral and written, and the fourth oral and written. No individual work was permitted, and all work was closely supervised, including the use of training aids. No one was permitted, for example, to take a receiver or transmitter into the field and operate it on his own.

8. No military manuals were used, and the only manuals used were technical guidebooks for operating the various equipment which were published by Tesla. These guidebooks, however, were bound with an Army manual-type cover, which made them official government property. All were classified "top secret" (prisne tajne). The following signal equipment was used for training purposes:

Receiver-transmitter:	Soviet R-13
	Soviet A-7-A
	Soviet RPM-12
	Soviet RBM-1
	Tesla-made RF-11
Receiver:	German Torn EB
Transmitter:	German 5 WSC
	German 15 WSC
	German 30 WSC
	German 80 WSC
Field telephone:	Soviet "Tai 43"
	Czech TP-25
	German N-33

25X1

25X1

Field telephone switchboard:	German N-10 Soviet K-10 German N-20 German N-30 German N-40 German N-60 Czech ?-10 (In all cases, the number following the Soviet PK-30 letter indicates the number of drops.)
Teletype machines:	German Siemens "Hell" German ST-35 German ST-38 1.
Generator battery charger:	English-made; name and type unknown.
Field telephone units:	These telephone units consisted of various-sized wooden boxes, with an assortment of telephone instruments, tools, pole climbers, and telephones. The boxes were designated K3, K6, K12, and K24. The number following the letter indicated the number of spools of telephone wire that came with the unit. K3, for example, indicated that three spools holding three kilometers of telephone wire came with the unit, one kilometer of wire being wound onto each spool. The sets that came with the units were either Soviet "Tai 43" or German N33 sets. The K3 unit contained three telephones; the K6 contained five; the K12 had ten, and the K24 had 20. The spools of wire were not inside the boxes, but were simply an external part of the unit (souprava). By late 1952, the Soviet and German field telephones were being replaced by the Tesla-made TP-25 field phone. (They were later standard issue in the 2nd Mecz. Bn., 103rd Mecz. Regt., 3rd Tank Division, in which I served.) The telephone wire in these units consisted of eight steel wires and three copper wires inside polivinol chloride insulation, referred to by the men as "PVC" and remembered by the three words "Pivo, Vino, Cigarety".
Teletype cable units:	One teletype unit consisted of 32 spools, each wound with 250 m. of teletype cable. The cable was made of four individually insulated smaller cables, each of which consisted of 10 fine copper wires.

All of the above equipment was marked with name plates in the language of the country of manufacture (USSR, Germany, Czechoslovakia), with the exception of the ST-35 and ST-38 teletype machines.

25X1

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training purposes, one teletype was used for 32 men; one field telephone set for every 6 men; one telephone switchboard for each 10 men; 3 men for one generator battery charger; and 2 men for each receiver and/or transmitter. The field telephone units were used in the following manner: for the K3 unit, one man was in charge and assisted by three others; for the K6, one was in charge, aided by six others; for the K12, one was in charge, aided by 12 others; for the K24, two men were in charge, assisted by 24 others.

10. In addition to the field training with these various types of equipment, the men at the school trained at putting up overhead telephone lines. Holes 20 to 25 m. apart were dug by hand by one group of men, while another group placed the poles in the holes. Still another group climbed the poles and fastened a bare combination copper-zinc wire to porcelain insulators. The telephone line was strung for a distance of 10 km.

11. Above everything else, the men had to pass political indoctrination courses satisfactorily. If a man showed poor aptitude in communications courses, but did well in his political courses, he was passed. If on the other hand, a man was an excellent student in communications courses but showed poor results in political indoctrination, he was failed and sent back to his original unit. This rarely happened at the end of the school term, since the man was watched closely from month to month. "Borderline" cases were decided upon at a meeting of the man's instructor, the head of the school, his company commander, and the political indoctrination officer. The grading system was as follows:

"5" Excellent
"4" Good
"3" Passing
"2" Unsatisfactory-conditional
"1" Failing

25X1

12. At the end of the school term, the Ministry of National Defense sent out orders assigning the graduates to various jobs in communications. These included assignments as chiefs of communications sections and message centers, as signal officers for units from company-size up through regiment, and some men received assignments with division headquarters' communications sections. The men were assigned to various branches of service, but all received assignments in the field of communications.

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25X1

13. The daily schedule at the Signal Training Center was as follows:

0600-0625 Reveille and formation

0625-0700 Personal clean-up

0700-0745 Breakfast

0745-0800 Break

0800-1345 Training

1345-1430 Lunch

1430-1600 Rest period

1600-1945 Training

25X1

25X1

1945-2030 Dinner

2030-2100 Break and rest period

2100-2200 Training

2200-2230 Cleaning weapons, shining shoes

2230-2245 Singing

2245-2259 Personal clean-up

25X1

2300-0600 Sleep

14. [redacted] three alerts: one was in January 1952, the second in June 1952, and the third in July 1952. The three alerts were training alerts in which all the students got their field equipment together and formed in front of their respective casernes.

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25X1

15. [redacted] another signal training center in Brno which was said to be training female personnel in signal communications [redacted]

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/Sketch of Signal Training Center at Nove Mesto nad Vahom/

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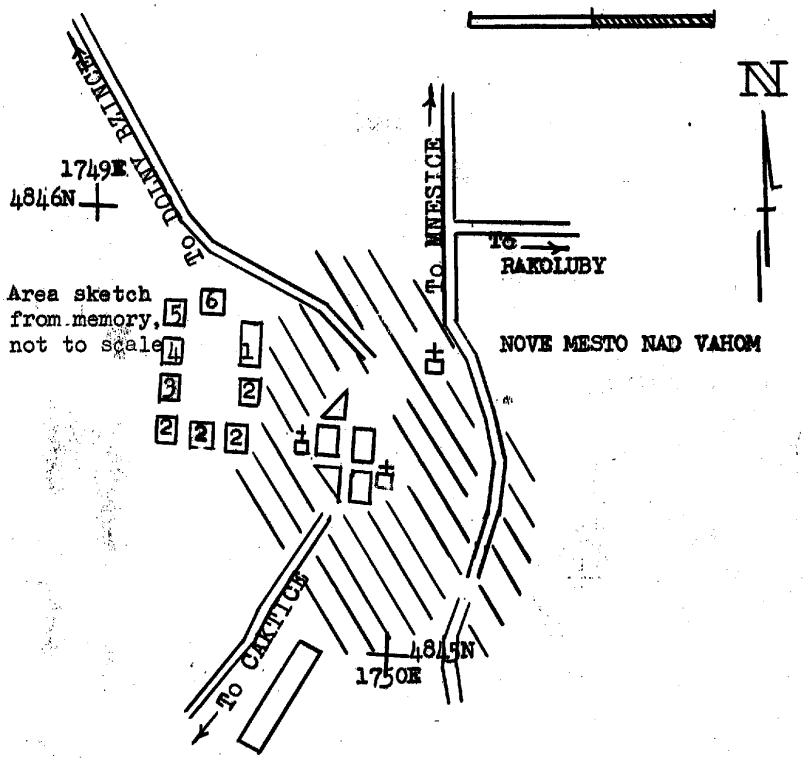
25X1

Sketch

Signal Training Center at Nove Mesto nad Vahom /N 48-45, E 17-50/



LEGEND

1. Signal Center Hq: 3-story brick bldg, 15 x 25 x 12 m. Offices, 30-VS radio station and a guardhouse.

2. Student officers billets: four 3-story brick bldgs, 10 x 50 x 8 m. All students were billeted there. No further details.

3. QM warehouse: 1-story brick bldg, 10 x 25 x 8 m. No further details.

4. Consolidated messhall: 1-story brick bldg, 10 x 25 to 30 x 8 m. Built during 1946-47. No further details.

5. Theatre: 1-story brick bldg, 10 x 25 x 8 m. No further details.

6. Arms room: 1-story brick bldg, 10 x 25 x 8 m. No further details.

Map Ref:
ST. TURA East, CSR
Sheet 4459/4E - 4460/3a,
BECKOV West, CSR
AMS M872 (GSGS 4725)
Scale: 1:25,000
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25X1